

## **REMARKS**

### **Status of the Claims**

Applicants thank the Examiner for renumbering the claims (because two claims were numbered 26 and 27) and have also renumbered the claims as shown above. Claims 33, 39 and 40 have been amended to properly depend from the renumbered claims. In addition, claim 36 has been amended to include a sequence identifier. Thus, claims 1-40 are pending and 3 and 17-31 have been withdrawn from consideration.

### **Specification**

The specification has been amended as shown above to include the proper sequence identifier. In addition, the reference to Earl (1990) has been removed.

### **Sequence Listing**

Attached hereto is a sequence listing including the sequence shown on page 8 and set forth in claim 36. Thus, Applicants have complied with the sequence rules as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.821-1.825.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks and amendments, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner contemplates another action, or if a telephone conference would expedite allowance of the claims, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

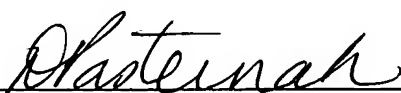
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees and credit any overpayment of fees which may be required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16, §1.17, or §1.21, to Deposit Account No. 18-1648.

Please direct all further written communications regarding this application to:

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Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 25, 2006

By:   
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